



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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## National Park Service News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Canaveral National Seashore Exotic Plant Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Available for Public Review**

The superintendent of Canaveral National Seashore announces the availability of the draft South Florida and Caribbean Parks Exotic Plant Management Plan and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (**EIS**) for public review. Florida parks included in this analysis, in addition to Canaveral National Seashore, are Big Cypress National Preserve, Biscayne National Park, Dry Tortugas National Park and Everglades National Park. The document presents the evaluation of three alternatives for managing exotic plants.

*Alternative A, No Action: Continue Current Management*, would continue the existing management framework. Parks would continue to treat infestations of exotic plants on an *ad hoc* basis through currently available funding sources.

*Alternative B, Increased Planning, Monitoring and Mitigation*, would apply a systematic approach that would prioritize exotic plants to be treated, monitor effects of treatments and mitigate adverse effects to park resources. Monitoring information would be used to adjust treatment methods or mitigation methods to reach the desired future condition of treated areas.

*Alternative C, Increased Planning, Monitoring and Mitigation, with an Emphasis on Active Restoration of Native Plants*. This is the preferred and environmentally preferred alternative. It would include the actions in Alternative B, plus an active program to enhance the return of native species to selected high-priority treatment areas.

Potential environmental consequences were evaluated for each alternative. This included impacts on natural and cultural resources, visitor experience and park management and operations.

The draft FMP and EIS can be viewed, and comments provided, on the National Park Service Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ever>. Hard copies, if desired, are available from Canaveral National Seashore (see contact information above) as long as supplies last.

Written comments can be mailed to Sandra Hamilton, Project Manager, National Park Service, Environmental Quality Division, Academy Place, PO Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225. Comments must be received by November 22, 2006.

It is the practice of the NPS to make comments, including names and addresses of respondents who provide that information, available for public review. Individuals may request that the NPS withhold their name and/or address from public disclosure. This must be stated prominently at the beginning of the comments. Respondents using the website can make such a request by checking the box "keep my contact information private." NPS will honor such requests to the extent allowable by law, but may still be required to disclose names and addresses pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act*.